

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01 SSM-03 EB-08 /101 W
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R 241913Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8347
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR EG XF
SUBJECT: SADAT WEEKLY OCTOBER INTERVIEW

SUMMARY. IN WEEKLY OCTOBER INTERVIEW, SADAT SAYS NO
PROGRESS ON PEACE FRONT BUT DOES NOT RULE OUT FURTHER
DIRECT CONTACTS. SEPARATE PEACE DECISIVELY TURNED
DOWN AGAIN. OPPOSITION AND PRESS CRITICS CRITICIZED
FOR BEING OUT OF TOUCH WITH MASSES AND EXAGGERATING
PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, ECONOMY "IN A BOTTLENECK AND
COUNTRY MUST BEAR AT LEAST TWO MORE YEARS OF HARDSHIP."
PRESIDENT CLEARLY AWARE OF CORRUPTION ISSUE BUT BLAMES
IT ON IRRESPONSIBLE PRESS. LEBANON NOT MENTIONED. END
SUMMARY.

1. PEACE PROCESS. "NOTHING NEW HAS HAPPENED" AND EGYPT
MUST VIEW WITH CAUTION EVERYTHING IT BEING TOLD AND
ITS OWN RESPONSES. REGARDING POSSIBLE DAYAN VISIT,
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SADAT SAID DIRECT CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL NO LONGER THE
ISSUE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THERE BE NEW IDEAS AND
NEW VIEWPOINTS WORTH PRESENTING TO GIVE MEETINGS A
PURPOSE. "THAT A PERSON SHOULD COME MERELY FOR THE
SAKE OF SAYING CONTACTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE
EXCLUDED THE U.S. . . . IS NOT A SERIOUS POSITION. IT
IS NOW UNDERSTOOD THAT IF THE OTHER SIDE HAS NOT

ARRIVED AT ANY NEW IDEAS, THEN SUCH MEETINGS, EVEN IF THEY ARE HELD, WILL BE MEANINGLESS."

2. SEPARATE PEACE. PRESIDENT AWARE OF THIS THEME IN FOREIGN PRESS, BUT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CONCLUDE SEPARATE PEACE. "YET ISRAEL DOES NOT GIVE UP HOPE." ISRAELIS BELIEVE IT IS ENOUGH TO GRANT AUTONOMY TO PALESTINIANS WHILE "WE BELIEVE PALESTINIAN STATE MUST BE ESTABLISHED. THEREFORE THERE CAN BE NO SEPARATE SOLUTION." ISRAEL IS STILL TRYING TO BUY SECURITY BY OCCUPYING MORE TERRITORY. "IT DOES NOT WANT SECURITY ALONE, BUT SECURITY AND TERRITORY. THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF A SEPARATE SOLUTION BECAUSE THIS HAS BEEN TOTALLY REJECTED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE INITIATIVE."

3. OPPOSITION AND PRESS CRITICISM. AS IN PRE-1973 PERIOD, CRITICS ARE COOPERATING TO DEFEAT EGYPT BEFORE THE BATTLE IS FOUGHT. SHAME OF LEFT IS THAT IT IS NOT EGYPTIAN BUT "LACKEY MARXIST, LENINIST, SOVIET" LEFT. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT LEFT IS JOINED BY RIGHT AND BY "OLD PARTY HACKS" (READ NEW WAFD PARTY). THEY IMAGINE THAT NOISES THEY MAKE WILL REACH ALL EGYPT, BUT CAIRO IS NOT EGYPT AND THIS "RABBLE-ROUSING MINORITY" IS ONLY IN CAIRO. "OLD PARTY HACKS" ARE TRYING TO CATCH UP WITH "BANDWAGON OF DOUBT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEFEATISM" IN POUNCING ON THE REGIME AND EXAGGERATING THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS.

4. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. PRESIDENT IS AWARE OF ECONOMIC SUFFERING AND KNOWS "PRECISELY ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS--FROM THE LOAF OF BREAD, TO TRANSPORT AND TO MUST BEAR UP UNTIL OUR CRISIS EASES TWO YEARS FROM NOW. "TODAY WE ARE PAYING THE ACCUMULATED DEBTS OF MANY YEARS AND IT IS PAINFUL."

5. PRESS FREEDOM. NOT A SINGLE NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN CONFISCATED, RUMOR WAS SPREAD BY LEFTIST PAPER AND BROADCAST ON RADIO MOSCOW WHICH SHOWS SVERY DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IDEAS OF CERTAIN AGENTS AND RADIO MOSCOW BROADCASTS."

6. CORRUPTION. DUTY OF PRESS TO SEARCH FOR PROBLEMS RECOGNIZED BUT IT GOES BEYOND CRITICISM TO DEFAMATION WHEN IT CLAIMS POT HOLES REMAIN IN CAIRO STREETS BECAUSE MONEY WAS SPENT TO BUY CARS FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS, IMPLICATION BEING THAT STATE DOES NOT CARE ABOUT PEOPLE'S COMPLAINTS. PRESS SHOULD NOT POINT OUT DEFECTS

IN THE STREET TO FABRICATE MORE SERIOUS DEFECTS.
PUBLIC WILL BE SURPRISED TO KNOW "I DID NOT FOLLOW
CONTROVERSY ABOUT PYRAMID HILL" PROJECT. PROJECT HAD
BEEN SUBMITTED TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AND DECISION ADOPTED.
THEREFORE MATTER WAS CLOSED. "WHEN I LEARNED OF THINGS
PUZZLING THE PEOPLE, I MADE INQUIRIES. IF ANY PERSON
DOUBTS THE HONESTY OF ANYONE OR HAS INFORMATION ABOUT
ANY OFFICIAL RECEIVING MONEY OR MISUSING HIS INFLUENCE,
IT IS THAT PERSON'S DUTY TO PASS THAT INFORMATION TO ME
AND I WILL INVESTIGATE IT." PRESIDENT PREOCCUPIED WITH
BIGGER AND MORE SERIOUS ISSUES, BUT THIS ISSUE OF SPECIAL
IMPORTANCE BECAUSE IT CASTS DOUBT ON LIBERALIZATION,

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OPEN DOOR POLICY AND FOREIGN AND ARAB CAPITAL INVESTMENT.
THIS IS "ONE LINK IN A CHAIN OF ATTEMPTS TO CREATE UN-
PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE."

7. COMMENT. SADAT DID NOT RULE OUT FURTHER DIRECT CONTACTS WITH ISRAELIS (DAYAN OR OTHERS), DESPITE EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR ISRAELI CHANGE TO MAKE CONTACTS MEANINGFUL. SEPARATE PEACE DECISIVELY RULED OUT, YET AGAIN. SADAT'S RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC CONCERN WITH DAILY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND CORRUPTION IS NOTABLE, BUT RATHER THAN DEALING WITH CAUSES AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES, HE AGAIN TENDED TO BLAME PUBLIC DISCONTENT ON "AGENT LEFTISTS", RIGHTISTS AND "OLD PARTY HACKS". INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT LEBANON DID NOT ARISE, CONFIRMING AGAIN SADAT'S REFUSAL TO BE DISTRACTED BY ISSUES NOT CENTRAL TO PEACE PROCESS. EILTS

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